

Yampa/White/Green River Basin Roundtable Minutes Summary

Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Location: CNCC Craig Campus, Room 185

2801 West 9th Street • Craig, CO 81625

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Recorded by Kristin Skowronski

1	Call Meeting to Order
	A regular Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable (YWG BRT) meeting convened virtually and in person. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Steve Hinkemeyer @ 6:01 PM
2	Introduction of Members and Audience
	A quorum was formed with 22 voting members present at the call to order (at least 16 required)
	<u>VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT:</u> Frank Alfone, Bill Badaracca, Julie Baxter, Ken Brenner, Rebecca Briesmoore, Jackie Brown, Mike Camblin, Chris Collins, Jeff Comstock, Doug Davis, Travis Day, T. Wright Dickinson, Stephen Hinkemeyer, Miranda Kawcak, Jeff Meyers, Doug Monger, Doug Overton, Callie Scritchfield, Tim Sullivan, Kent Vertrees, Shawn Welder, Charles Whiteman
	<u>OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:</u> Sally Cariveau, Ashley Garrison, Emily Lowell, Mario Sullivan, Betty Kracht, Erin Light, Jeff Rodriguez, Kathleen Voight, Amy Ostdiek, Holly Kirkpatrick, Grace Brofman, Heather Sackett, Deirdre Macnab, Kristin Skowronski
3	Appointment of New Members
	Tim Winkler sent a letter announcing Alden Vanden Brink's reappointment as the Rio Blanco Water Conservancy District's representative for the YWG BRT.
4	Review and Approve September 11, 2024 Minutes
	Ken Brenner moved to approve the September 11, 2024 minutes, Frank Alfone seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.
5	Public Comment
	Kent Vertrees promoted Friends of the Yampa's upcoming annual fundraiser, Big Snow Bash. Holly Kilpatrick reminded attendees about the Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District's community survey which is open until December 1, 2024.
*	Approve the Agenda
	Hinkemeyer noted that the agenda did not include an item for its formal approval. However, a request was made to add a letter of support (LOS) to the agenda if the group agreed. Brenner moved to approve the agenda with the addition of the LOS and an amendment to reorder item 7 to follow item 6. Doug Davis seconded, agenda was unanimously approved.
6	Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Update
	a. Budget Report: Jeff Rodriguez shared updates, noting that the CWC guide is in the final stages of incorporating feedback.
	b. CWCB Update: Jackie Brown reported that 2024 was the 6 th warmest and 5 th driest year on record. She also announced that her term on the CWCB will end as of January 2025.
7	Water Commissioners Corner
	Amy Ostdiek gave updates on Post-2026 Operations, the System Conservation Pilot Program, and the Provisional Accounting MOU. Upper Division States Alternative.
8	Action Items
8a	Grant Committee
i.	Grant Committee Update
	The new funding year starts in October with \$710,000 available.
ii.	2025 Grant Program Funding Amount
	The grant committee recommended granting \$550,000 in the 2025 funding cycle. Brenner moved to support the grant committee's recommended funding allocation of \$550,000 in 2025. Bill Badaracca seconded; motion was unanimously approved.
iii.	Yampatika Water Education 2026 - 2027
	Kristen Jespersen presented Yampatika's grant proposal, with Brenner recusing himself from the discussion due to his involvement with PEPO. Chris Collins motioned to approve the grant request for \$99,724 from YWG BRT WSRF funds, which was seconded by Julie Baxter and unanimously approved.

iv.	<i>Sheriff's Reservoir Rehabilitation</i>
	John Treacy presented on the Sheriff's Reservoir Rehabilitation project. T. Wright Dickinson moved to approve grant request for \$67,333 of YWG BRT WSRF funds and \$437,665 in CWCB Statewide WSRF funds. Brenner seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.
v.	<i>Oak Ridge Park Ditch</i>
	Greg Petersen, representing the Colorado Ag Water Alliance, gave a presentation on the Oak Ridge Park Ditch project. Following the presentation, Mike Camblin moved to approve grant request for \$25,000 of YWG BRT WSRF funds and \$134,500 of CWCB Statewide WSRF funds. Callie Scritchfield seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.
8b	<i>Upper Yampa Basin Water Quality Modeling LOS</i>
	Emily Lowell requested a LOS for UYB Water Quality Modeling. Jackie Brown moved to approve the LOS, Alfone seconded, and the request was unanimously approved.
	<i>Yampa River/Walton Creek Confluence Restoration Project LOS</i>
	Baxter requested a LOS for The Yampa River/Walton Creek Confluence Restoration Project. Tim Sullivan moved to approve the drafting of the LOS, with the condition that the draft be circulated to members via email for review and final approval. Dickinson seconded, and the motion passed unanimously, with Baxter recusing herself from the vote.
8c	<i>White River Vice-Chair Election</i>
	Vanden Brink and Scritchfield nominated Collins for White River Vice Chair, a position previously held by Tim Winkler. The nomination was unanimously approved.
9	<i>Presentations</i>
9a	<i>Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District grant program update</i>
	Kilpatrick gave updates on the UYWCD Grant Program and provided an overview of the program's current progress and opportunities available.
9b	<i>UYWCD Dashboard Project Update</i>
	Lowell provided details on the progress of the dashboard project. This included updates on new features, usability improvements, and its intended role in streamlining water management and data accessibility for stakeholders.
10	<i>Division of Water Resources Report</i>
	Erin Light provided updates on the ongoing work and progress within the division. She highlighted operational adjustments and key challenges being addressed in water management.
11	<i>Colorado River District Update</i>
	Rebecca Briesmoore's update included a review of the ongoing activities and key updates from the CRD. She focused on recent developments in water policy and management affecting the district.
12	<i>Roundtable Projects and Committees</i>
12a	<i>Big River Committee/IBCC</i>
	Meyers provided an overview of the committee's recent activities and focus areas. Brenner updated the group on the C9 Summit, detailing discussions and outcomes relevant to the committee's objectives.
12b	<i>PEPO</i>
	Sally Carriveau noted that the PEPO grant is now administered through the Colorado Ag Alliance (CAA). She shared that she is now working with the Yampa Valley Sustainability Council (YVSC) and encouraged members to submit ideas for field trips and outreach efforts. Additionally, she highlighted that radio advertisements are being delayed, while the first phase of the Story Map project has been approved.

13	Announcements
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CWCB Board Meeting: November 20–21, 2024 • IBCC Meeting: February 26, 2025 • Colorado Water Congress: January 29–31, 2025
14	Next YWG BRT Meeting January 8, 2025 @ 6:00 PM CNCC Craig, CO
15	Adjourn Meeting
	Doug Davis moved to adjourn, Brenner seconded. Meeting adjourned at 9:02 PM.